




PERHAPS SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER
WAS NOT THE BEST WAY TO
LAUNCH THE CHURCH WEBSITE


St Stephen & St Thomas'
Church

1 February 2009
Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)
All Age Service

www.ststephensw12.org
You can read all the latest news about the parish.
You can also read the sermons which are posted each week

Worship Song:

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Worship Song:

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Sharing of the Peace

Parents are invited to go to the school hall for coffee and cakes

GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

(p.63)

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as

holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for

- The sick and suffering: especially Felix Okike, Lucilda Bernard, Joan Andrew, Ivy Smith, Susie Leach, Norbert Edwards, Sylvia Steed, Tracey Davies, Esmay Young, Roger Cox, Althea Ferns, Dorian Henry, Detroy Henry. Mary Rodney, Esme Hoyte, Esme Fairburn

Offertory Hymn

Communion Hymn

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Recessional Hymn

Coffee in Church after the service

THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

Monday:	Mother and Toddlers (9-11)
Wednesday:	Parent and Child Reading Group (from 3.30) Holy Communion – 6 pm
Thursday:	Christian Meditation Group – 6.30 pm.
Sunday:	Service of Holy Communion– 10 am Celebrant and Preacher - Rev Dr Bob Mayo 1 Corinthians 9.16-23 (p483), Mark 1 21-28
(p479)	

NOTICES

Burlington Danes Academy – 6th Form Open Evening - Tuesday 3 February at 6 pm. As from September 2009 Burlington Danes Academy in Wood Lane will have a 6th form and are keen to attract Christian students from the local community. For more information visit www.burlingtondanes.org

Being a church in Shepherds Bush

There are three strands to our being a church together

1. We get to know each other - otherwise known as fellowship
2. We learn about God together - otherwise known as worship and teaching
3. We get stuck in when we see people in need – otherwise known as mission and outreach

How do we achieve our first aim - 'get to know each other better'?

1. **Midweek Group (Talk to Edd)** - Would you be interested in meeting with other people from the church during the week? This would become a 'House Group'. You would meet in someone's home, have a meal together and look at the Bible. If you are interested talk to Edd - 07836156835, eddstock@hotmail.com.
2. **Residential (Friday April 24th) (Talk to Barry)**. We would like to go away for one night with as many members of the congregation as our able to come. It takes time to get to know each other and there is no short cut to our fellowship together. If you are interested in this please contact Barry 07984077582 lc41@hotmail.com
3. **Twickenham Rugby 7s (Saturday & Sunday May 23rd and 24th) (Talk to Barry)**. Tickets are £10 each and we have ordered 16. If you are interested in coming to this please contact Barry 07984077582 lc41@hotmail.com

How do we achieve our second aim - 'worship and teaching

1. **Sunday School and Children's room** - The Sunday School is for children 4 years and above. We have a strong team of volunteers and so parents are asked not to go into the Sunday School and offer to help (we have not got room). If you would like to go on the Sunday School rota please talk to Mhairi mhhouse.hopkins@gmail.com 07881 814532
2. **Would you like to be a server in church (Talk to Shereen)**- all ages are welcome. Talk to Shereen or I if you are interested 07757122435 marjebed@hotmail.co.uk
3. **Volunteering (Talk to Michael)** - We need people to take a turn reading in church, doing the prayers, helping with the tea, coffee and hospitality. If you can help with any of these can you talk to Michael 07950978108 mjmelichar@yahoo.com
4. **Sunday Youth** - these are the older young people who meet during the service. If you would like to be involved, talk to Caroline 07956 821294 or Paula d.walker5@btinternet.com
5. **The garden (Talk to Luke)** - We have a work day planned on March 28th. Talk to Luke or I if you are able to help - info@lukewhite.com

How do we achieve our third aim - 'mission and outreach'

- 1▷ **The Church Hall (Talk to Juliet)** - Building starts next month - We will need help with fundraising! Is there anyone out there with a few hours in the week that they can spend helping with this? Talk to Juliet or I. 07958430948 julietbyford@blueyonder.co.uk
- 2▷ **Visiting (Talk to me)** - We are linking younger with older members of the congregation. People who spend a lot of time at home may be glad to be visited by a mother and child. It could be nice also for the child to have contact with an older member of the community Talk to me - Bob 07969090907 bob.mayo@london.anglican.org
- 3▷ **Alpha Course (Talk to Anne)** - This is due to start after Easter. If you are interested in coming to this talk to Anne 07824511029 anne.cowley@ntlworld.com

Money - the collection on a Sunday by Sunday basis has dramatically increased. Can any of you generous people convert this into a standing order? This helps the church to plan knowing what its income will be. Talk to Barry 07984077582 lc41@hotmail.com.

Parish Residential

Friday 24 - Saturday 25 April 2009

There will be a residential event for members of the Parish at the Felbury Centre on 24/25 April 2009

The cost will be £50 per person to include dinner on Friday night, overnight accommodation and breakfast and lunch on Saturday

Payment may be made by instalment to Barry Clarke, Church Treasurer

If you would like to attend this event please complete the form below and return it to Barry or Liz with your payment - either the full amount or your first instalment

I should like to attend the Parish Residential Event on 24/25 April 2009

Name

Address

Tel No: (home) (mobile) (work)

Email:

Special dietary requirements

Any other special requirements

I should like to share a twin/triple** room with

I should like to pay by instalments of £ a week/month **

I enclose herewith payment in full/my first instalment of £.....

Cheques should be made payable to St Stephen & St Thomas

** delete as applicable

Please return this form to Barry or Liz Clarke